



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

No. 190

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JONES).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONDAIRE JONES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

On this day of infamy, O Lord, we remember. We remember and we cherish the sacred memory of those whose lives were lost in the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor 81 years ago. We pray that their sacrifice would serve as an everlasting tribute to the duty we each have to the Nation You have entrusted to us. May this day be an eternal reminder of the sacred gift of liberty You have graced on these United States.

Even as we give tribute to these brave heroes of that auspicious day in our country's history, we pray You again rouse in us the same passion, the same allegiance, the same willingness to defend against today's enemies of freedom and sovereignty, peace and justice.

We need only look around the globe to witness the reprise of irrational hubris threatening Ukraine. Sustain the Ukrainian people in their resolve, in their firm commitment to stand against their oppressors in this infamous season in their history.

O Lord, judge between the nations and settle the disputes of Your people.

Beat their weapons into tools that will cultivate the land and not destroy it. May their armaments be surrendered for instruments of diplomacy and stability.

On this day, may we be inspired to lay aside our warring ways and honor those who have gone before us, with a renewed commitment to peace.

In the salvation to be found only in Your name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEMPOLINSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Bryd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2141 Ferry Street in Anderson, California, as the "Norma Connick Post Office Building".

H.R. 263. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

H.R. 700. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the "Lawrence M. 'Larry' Walsh Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office".

H.R. 5481. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic".

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building".

H.R. 6722. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

H.R. 6863. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center".

H.R. 7903. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

H.R. 7925. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 7077. An act to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2607. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979-1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2773. An act to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to address satellite offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

S. 3198. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to register on a form tailored specifically to registered index-linked annuities, and for other purposes.

S. 3903. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 5016. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System", and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PROMISES TO NATIVE NATIONS

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, in 2018, the United States Commission on Civil Rights released the "Broken Promises" report, a project undertaken at my request to evaluate Federal obligations to Indian Country.

Here is a summary. For too long, the Federal Government has failed to live up to its treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal nations. As a result, many Native communities lack adequate housing, health facilities, schools, and justice centers. Many lack basic infrastructure—roads, water, and telecommunications—required to deliver needed support services.

Congress and the Federal Government have a moral and legal obligation to fulfill the promises that have been made, and that is why I am proud to introduce the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act, legislation to help reverse the decades-long pattern of systemic funding shortfalls and to strengthen Federal programs that support Indian Country.

This bill includes provisions to reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal nations and to better meet the needs of Native communities.

Action is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, and Congress should move swiftly to get this done.

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S LOVE

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize National Bible Week, we have the chance to reflect on the wisdom and guidance that the Holy Scripture provides to us as we seek to govern.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said: I know that my redeemer lives. And if a sparrow cannot fall without His knowing, surely an empire cannot rise without His aid.

We see evidence of God's love and providence in so many aspects of our American lives. From our military, who have kept our Nation safe, to the doctors and researchers who have developed lifesaving medicines and cures because they have the freedom to innovate, to the miners, rail workers, and manufacturers who have built a strong and prosperous country, and to the farmers and producers who till our soil and grow the food that we rely on, there is abundant evidence that we are truly a blessed Nation.

May God continue to bless these great United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JIM GARDNER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the legendary career of Philadelphia news anchor Jim Gardner and to thank him for his remarkable contributions to the Philadelphia area and broadcast journalism.

It was back in 1976 that Jim first started his career at Philadelphia's local ABC affiliate, WPVI. For more than 46 years now, he has helped bring the news, both good and bad, to millions of us who live in the Delaware Valley.

Jim has been at the center of ensuring that Philadelphia and the entire region were proud in times of success, unified in moments of division, and calm during times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Philadelphian, it is simply impossible to imagine Philadelphia TV without Jim Gardner. I thank him for his years of service and wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES SMITHGALL

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Smithgall of Lancaster, who passed away in October at the age of 77.

Charlie, as he was known to so many, will be greatly missed. He was a husband to Debbie, a father to Allison, a grandfather to two boys, and a friend to all that he met.

Charlie graduated from J.P. McCaskey High School in 1963 and later the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy

and Science, and then he spent the rest of his life working to improve the lives of those in his hometown of Lancaster as operator of his family's pharmacy, which continues to operate on West Lemon Street.

Charlie also worked to improve the health of Lancaster city. He served as mayor from 1998 to 2006 and worked tirelessly to revitalize the city. Major developments such as the convention center there and Clipper Magazine Stadium would not have been possible without his leadership.

Charlie was also a devoted collector of military equipment, including cannons. If you have watched historical movies such as "Gettysburg" or "Lincoln," chances are that you have seen one of Charlie's cannons on the big screen.

We will all miss Charlie. While we mourn the loss of our friend, we offer our prayers of comfort to Debbie, Allison, and his entire family.

A WIN FOR OFFSHORE WIND

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a more secure future for offshore wind and for Massachusetts' leadership in this growing clean energy sector.

The removal of the proposed crewing amendment is a win for offshore wind and for Massachusetts. I am proud to have fought on behalf of clean energy independence and my district's economic development.

However, we should not replay this saga every Congress. With Republicans taking the gavel, I am ready to work across the aisle and with dissenting voices in my own party to negotiate a permanent solution that advances offshore wind and anchors American jobs at home.

I look forward to working on a bipartisan compromise to support domestic mariners and shipbuilders and to safeguard our clean energy future.

A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Eighty-one years ago today, our Nation endured a tragic loss when Pearl Harbor was targeted in a surprise attack, resulting in over 2,000 military and civilian casualties, more than 1,000 injuries, and the loss of a naval fleet.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was intended to cripple the United States, but it did just the opposite. Men and women across the country rallied together to support our country as it entered World War II, from enlisting in the military to volunteering for the

war effort. This tragedy united our country against a common enemy.

As a 24-year Army veteran, we must always remember this day as a reminder to be vigilant and always prepared.

Today, we honor those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor. May we never forget their sacrifice and service to our great Nation.

COMPENSATION FOR FIRE SURVIVORS

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of California wildfire survivors.

Following the disastrous wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018, a court-ordered trust was established to compensate survivors for their loss of property. These funds are nowhere near enough to fully compensate for the loss of a home. Even worse, I have heard from countless constituents concerned that the funds they receive from the trust will be taxed.

That is why I, along with Congressman LAMALFA, introduced H.R. 7305, to make clear that settlement proceeds like these are nontaxable.

This legislation is absolutely essential to wildfire survivors, many of whom still cannot return to a home on their property.

The sad reality is that more natural disasters, including fires, will happen in the future. It is critical that Congress pass this legislation now.

This bill ensures Americans impacted by disasters do not owe unfair taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to include this legislation in any omnibus or spending bill moving forward.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES EXPAND EXPORTS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022.

I was proud to join Representatives FLOOD, EVANS, and NEWMAN to introduce this bill to help our small businesses expand exports and reach new markets.

The STEP Improvement Act would reauthorize the State trade and export program from fiscal year 2023 to 2026, for 3 more years, and improve the program by streamlining the application process for small businesses and implementing strong metrics so the program works as intended.

Since STEP's creation in 2011, my home State of California has received \$8.5 million in STEP funding, helping more than 1,200 small businesses create jobs and generate more than \$85 mil-

lion in export sales. That is 10 times the return on our investment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who helped to pass this legislation yesterday in the House.

□ 1415

IN SUPPORT OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the \$2.8 million included in the National Defense Authorization Act for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

This funding will support construction of a new combined operations and alert facility at the base. The project is important to the 914th Air Refueling Wing and national readiness.

A strong and efficient 914th is good for the country and for western New York. The air reserve station is Niagara County's largest employer, generating \$300 million in economic impact on the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this funding and enhance mission response.

CELEBRATING CAROL HERNANDEZ

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Air Force fellow, Carol Hernandez, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Carol has been instrumental in all things related to the Armed Services Committee, especially when it came to the NDAA and looking for ways to improve the DOD acquisitions process. Her wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise has been crucial in helping address issues important to Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District.

We will miss Carol, not for only what she brought to us legislatively, but mostly because of who she is as a person. Carol is truly one of the most kind, thoughtful, and genuine people I have ever met. She is also whip smart, an engineer, and an amazing mother to four daughters.

Although I am excited for her new chapter, it has been a pleasure to have her in my office. She will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Carol for everything she has done for Team Bice.

CONGRESS MUST SAFEGUARD SAME-SEX AND INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this summer the Supreme Court issued the

Dobbs decision, a direct assault on the right to safe and legal abortion.

In a disturbing concurrence to an already dangerous decision, Justice Clarence Thomas attacked Obergefell v. Hodges, which underpins the right to marriage equality.

With the right to marry potentially at risk, House Democrats put people over politics and took action to protect marriage equality for all Americans.

The Respect for Marriage Act prevents right-wing extremists from overturning legal precedent and ensures statutory protections for same-sex and interracial marriages across the country.

While extremist Republicans continue their path to destroy American freedom and challenge the legitimacy of LGBTQ families, Democrats are protecting American people's right to marry who they love.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this crucial bill to safeguard same-sex and interracial marriages, and I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this bill into law to protect and respect the right to marriage equality across our country.

CONGRATULATING THE 2022 RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION AWARDS

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 recipients of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission awards.

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, or GMRC, offers guidance and resources to nearly 50 local governments, fostering leadership, economic development, and prosperity to improve northeast Georgia communities.

GMRC recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and honored this year's accomplished award recipients.

I am pleased to congratulate:

Joe Rothwell, regional planner for GMRC, as employee of the year;

John Sell, community and economic development director of White County, as appointed official of the year;

The mayor of Dawsonville, Mike Eason, as elected official of the year;

The mayor of Lavonia, Mr. Courtney Umbehant, as GMRC council member of the year; and

Ken Schubring, GMRC vice chairman, who received this year's chairman award.

I am proud to honor this year's Georgia Mountains Regional Commission award recipients, and I thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to serving northeast Georgians.

CONDEMNING IRAN KILLING CHILDREN

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Iran's youth have emerged as leaders of the anti-regime protests—but also as a political target.

On November 16, 9-year-old Kian Pirfalak was fatally shot, becoming the youngest killed by Iranian authorities' response to that demonstration. Two months after Mahsa Amini's death, over 60 children have died under Iran's brutal crackdown—children no older than my own.

These aren't accidents. Security forces are raiding grade schools looking for student protestors. Mass arrests and violent beatdowns are commonplace. Authorities are even holding hostage the remains of protestors, a heartless practice meant to silence grieving relatives.

These children belong in safe schools and loving families, not in body bags.

I strongly condemn Iran's killing of children and stand with the protestors demanding change and accountability.

Iran should not be allowed to rob children of their lives or their freedoms.

AMERICANS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO IRS INTRUSION AND OVERREACH

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, as today is Pearl Harbor Day, may we all give thanks to those before us who fought and gave their lives for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, come next year, Americans who receive \$600 or more on their third-party payment systems like Venmo will receive a tax form thanks to a provision put into the American Rescue Plan.

For instance, if you sold an old couch and received payment for it of over \$600, you could trigger an IRS audit. This reporting requirement will not be targeting the wealthy, as it was designed for, but middle class Americans who often send and receive money via Venmo and other services.

The new 87,000 IRS agents hired through the Democrat plan will be very busy. We were told last year the IRS agents would only be targeting those making more than \$400,000 a year. I think we all remember that. The SNOOP Act introduced by my colleague MICHELLE STEEL would reverse the reporting threshold back to \$20,000, ensuring everyday Americans are not subject to this IRS intrusion and overreach, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

DREAMERS DESERVE A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, the alarm bell has been sounding for over a

decade on the urgent need to permanently protect Dreamers in America.

For years, we have tried and tried to get a solution across the finish line, but there are Members of this body who have lacked the heart to do the right thing and get this done.

This is shameful.

It is now or never. If we don't act in this session, then DACA could end as early as next year. Immigrant youth deserve better. They are our teachers, firefighters, nurses, small business owners, servicemembers, and leaders across our country.

Their contributions of \$1.7 billion annually benefit all of us.

America is their home, and they deserve every opportunity to achieve the American Dream and continue to contribute to our economy and our great country.

I urge my colleagues to fight for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and I pray that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do the right thing and put forth humane solutions, not senseless legislation that keeps countless immigrant people in the shadows.

HONORING IRENE DOROTHY SCHWEITZER

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a great citizen of Orange County, Irene Dorothy Schweitzer.

Yesterday, Irene turned 100 years old. She has been an active member of the community and has consistently given back.

Everyone who knows Irene knows how happy she is because of her million-dollar smile which absolutely lights up the room. Even at 100 years old, Irene never forgets a face, which makes everyone who meets her feel so special.

I have personally been so blessed to know her, and I am so thankful that we have a person as wonderful as her living in Southern California and making our community a brighter place to live. She truly makes the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of Orange County, I wish Irene a happy 100th birthday and wish her many more years of joy, blessings, and smiles.

SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES ARE WREAKING HAVOC ON OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. SEMPOLINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise because of my concern with the havoc that President Biden and the congressional Democrats' soft-on-crime policies are wreaking on our country.

This administration's approach to crime has only emboldened criminals who exploit these weaknesses.

In a recent poll, Gallup found 56 percent of Americans think local crime has increased, which is more than any time in the past five decades.

I come from a primarily rural district, and unfortunately, we have not been immune from this rise in crime. Members of my community are concerned for their family's safety.

Failed ideas like so-called bail reform, defunding the police, and putting violent offenders back onto our streets have created a powder keg.

According to a recent study by Just Facts, if homicide rates were to continue at the rate of increase in President Biden's first year in office, over your lifetime, the chance of your life ending by homicide is 1 in 179.

We have tied the hands of our heroes in law enforcement while untying the hands of criminals. We must act now to reserve these policies for the safety and security of our communities.

KANSANS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN LAND

(Mr. ESTES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Local Management of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Act. Kansas energy producers and ranchers are excellent stewards of the land and resources. They work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation while taking voluntary proactive measures to protect the lesser prairie-chicken's habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's inclusion of the lesser prairie-chicken on the threatened and endangered species list is nonfactual and disregards the preservation efforts of our energy producers and ranchers who best know their land.

After a yearlong species status assessment, the Federal Government spent millions to conclude that the lesser prairie-chicken population is stable and has grown.

Its inclusion on the threatened and endangered species list is detrimental to our robust ag and energy industries, blatant bureaucratic overreach, and is another example of the Biden administration's hindering American energy independence.

My legislation stops Washington elites from undermining voluntary public-private conservation practices and ensures Kansans control our land.

□ 1430

HONORING RAJA CHARI

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NASA astronaut

Raja Chari, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, a decorated Air Force pilot, and commander of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission.

Raja recently returned from a successful mission to the International Space Station, a milestone in U.S. space exploration. I had the privilege of meeting Raja yesterday to hear more about his mission with his team, and I appreciate his passion for ensuring that the U.S. wins the 21st century space race—not China.

Raja is an inspiration to the next generation of aspiring astronauts, fighter pilots, and scientists. He is a role model for my two boys, Max and Jax, and other young Iowans who truly want to shoot for the stars.

From Cedar Falls, Iowa, to the International Space Station, Raja has made America proud, and he has made Iowa proud.

AMERICANS DESERVE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT

(Mrs. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, since 9/11 over 13.5 million border encounters have occurred at our border. Over 1 million Americans have died from drug overdoses, and CNN reports that the cartels take in \$19 to \$29 billion annually from drug sales to the United States of America.

Since 9/11 the United States has spent \$8 trillion on foreign wars, and over 7,000 U.S. servicemembers have died defending foreign lands and foreign borders.

Now we have sent over \$50 billion to Ukraine, and President Biden wants another \$37 billion to Ukraine. This will be pushing it to over \$90 billion.

Yesterday Democrats voted “no” on my House resolution to audit Ukraine. The American people deserve transparency and oversight on where their money is going.

I also want to point out that America deserves our borders to be defended so that if we are going to support any war, we should support a war on the cartels that are killing Americans and invading our country.

SUPPORTING MEDICARE PROVIDERS

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as we end this session of Congress in the next few weeks, I remind all Members we are acutely aware that without congressional action, the entire healthcare clinician community faces a cumulative Medicare payment cut in reduction of approximately 8.5 percent on January 1, 2023.

Without congressional action, these cuts will continue to drive hospital consolidation, limit patient access, and

harm physicians’ ability to run their own small businesses.

These outdated cuts in a time when considerable stress is placed upon physicians has meant that they are affected. They are affected because of the costs that they have on their business.

So at a time when we look for this access and the care for our most vulnerable populations, it is up to Congress to make sure that we pass H.R. 8800, the Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT OUR BORDER

(Mr. FLOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to focus a light today on the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding at our southern border. This week, President Biden once again refused to visit the border saying: “There are more important things going on.”

It is no surprise the President doesn’t want to go to the border because he would have to confront the crisis that his rhetoric and policies have created.

Unlike the President, I have visited the border. During my visit, one thing became crystal clear: his catch-and-release policies have dramatically escalated the crisis. Law enforcement told me about how coyotes bring women and children across the border trafficking and sexually abusing them along the journey.

Data underscores the impact that President Biden’s rhetoric has had. CBP reports show that Southwest land border encounters have increased almost fivefold in 2 years.

I have a message to the President: It is time to address the border crisis. It is time to stop the drug and human trafficking. And it is time, Mr. President, to finish the wall and reinstate the policies to remain in Mexico.

FIRE VICTIMS TRUST

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Throughout California there are tens of thousands of residents who lost their homes, their belongings, and, for some, even their loved ones due to wildfires.

In 2020, the fire victims trust was established to compensate survivors of the 2015 Butte, the 2017 North Bay, and the 2018 Camp fires with a total of \$13.5 billion of settlement award money.

Survivors have waited years for compensation to rebuild their lives, and they have long awaited these funds. Instead, to add insult, many of them are facing immense tax burdens and navigating the uncertainty of our ambiguous tax code trying to find concrete answers of how much they may or may not owe the Government in taxes.

We should not force survivors to pay Federal taxes on compensation they

would otherwise use to rebuild their lives, and we certainly should not be forcing them to pay taxes on funds that are going to the lawyers involved as well.

Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and I have introduced H.R. 7305 to correct this injustice. I am urging all my colleagues in the House to support this bipartisan legislation and bring much-needed financial reprieve to these wildfire survivors.

They shouldn’t have to live with this uncertainty over their heads. This needs to be passed by the end of this year.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1903

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JONES) at 7 o’clock and 3 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8404, RESPECT FOR MAR- RIAGE ACT

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117–608) on the resolution (H. Res. 1510) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8404, RESPECT FOR MAR- RIAGE ACT

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1510 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1510

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. The previous

question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1510, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404 and provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, tonight's rule provides for the consideration of the Respect for Marriage Act, and I am proud to support this rule to move that bill to the floor.

The Respect for Marriage Act will repeal the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act once and for all and ensure that all across America, families in same-sex and interracial marriage are afforded the respect and legal rights and protections they deserve.

Passage of this bill is a critical step to protect the rights and freedoms of all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or race, following the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. That decision and recent statements by the Supreme Court's new rightwing majority have left families across the country and in my district worried about the future of marriage equality.

The Respect for Marriage Act will ensure long-term stability and important statutory protection for all marriages. The Respect for Marriage Act will safeguard the protections laid out in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, as well as prior case law, that protect important fundamental privacy and liberty rights, all of which were improperly called into question in the *Dobbs* decision and related dicta.

This is a matter of respecting the fundamental rights, freedoms, and liberties of our neighbors, family members, and fellow citizens. Everyone should have the right to marry the per-

son they love and live free from discrimination, regardless of where in this great land they live or travel.

In addition to securing the respect for those marriages, this bill will also secure respect for families across America and in all of our communities and families.

The issues addressed by this bill have been thoroughly debated in this body, in the Senate, and by the American public. The Respect for Marriage Act will ensure long-term stability and important statutory protections for all.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation and to reaffirm the fundamental right to marriage equality.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak on the bill included within this rule, Senate amendment to H.R. 3404, the Respect for Marriage Act.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, this bill previously came before the House. Unfortunately, at the time, the legislation was a byproduct of a very truncated process, having received no committee markup and being parachuted from the Speaker's office straight to the floor.

In response to the rushed House process, the Senate actually undertook a more comprehensive amendment process on the floor, giving Senators the opportunity to amend the legislation, something we did not have the opportunity to do. I am encouraged that the amended version from the Senate has tried to address some of the religious liberty concerns that myself and other Members have highlighted.

Even though I can report that this bill is much improved from its original form, there are still problems with this legislation and its possible implications for religious institutions and matters of conscience.

It is regrettable that certain amendments that would safeguard religious liberty, such as Senator LEE's and Congressman ROY's amendments prohibiting the government from removing a nonprofit organization's tax-exempt status based on religious beliefs, those were all blocked.

Had those additional amendments received a fair hearing and as a result been adopted, we could have made significant progress toward addressing the very serious and legitimate concerns about the consequences of this legislation and its potential curtailment of a fundamental American right.

Today's bill, while a better product than before, should have been better, and it is regrettable that we are at this point and this is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, families in my community are justly skeptical of process arguments which have been regularly weaponized to roll back the rights, the freedoms, the liberties that they so richly deserve to exercise. So I think at this point, there has been plenty of process. There has been amendment process in both Chambers, and it is time to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), a colleague and certainly a well-spoken member of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, obviously, I rise in opposition to the rule. I made my position clear in the Committee on Rules earlier this week, and I think it is very much a position held by a large number of my colleagues.

It is a shame that we are sitting here debating the institution of marriage but without actual debate. We are here, we are going to debate this rule, it will be a few minutes, and then boom, we are going to go vote. We are not going to have any real debate on this tomorrow either.

I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules, an amendment to add protections for religious liberty, and it was killed on a budget point of order, a budget point of order that it said would cost around \$500,000 or more. For what? For damages that an individual American might receive if successful in challenging the Department of Justice if their rights were being infringed.

Let me be clear. It was going to be killed on a point of order out of the Committee on Rules because it could be successful in protecting the rights of Americans, when you have got a piece of legislation that has a private right of action put into it, a sword to be used against the American people if they exercise their closely held religious beliefs. And that is the truth.

It is a bill that was passed off of this floor with no hearing in the House Committee on the Judiciary, sent to the Senate in July, with no protection for religious liberty in it, and then provisions were added in the Senate to provide some very bare minimum, narrow religious liberty protections, only for the solemnization of marriage.

When an individual tries to offer an amendment to try to protect the rights of all Americans to be free from persecution—if, for example, you are a school, a religious school, that might not want to hire somebody in a same-sex marriage because it is against your closely held religious beliefs, you might have to litigate that now. The response by the other side is: Oh, my gosh, the Constitution exists; oh, my gosh, RFRA, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, exists.

So the shield that people had before is now the thing that you have to go litigate in court and hire lawyers to defend yourself for exercising your closely held religious beliefs against the

sword that this legislation provides. That is the truth of what we are dealing with here.

We offered an amendment in good faith, just like Senator MIKE LEE did, a bipartisan amendment, by the way. We are getting no debate, no ability to offer that amendment on the floor, no ability to have a debate on that amendment, no ability to actually have a conversation about the free exercise of religion and protecting people's closely held religious beliefs.

That is why people are sick of this institution. We do not debate. We do not amend. We simply jam stuff through the Committee on Rules and then we walk away and go give speeches on the steps. That is no way to do business. I hope we change that in the new Congress. But this is not the way to do business in the House of Representatives.

□ 1915

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, we believe that the gentleman's amendment is both duplicative and unnecessary.

The Senate spent months crafting a bipartisan compromise to amend H.R. 8404 to address the religious liberty concerns that were raised by Republicans in the House and Senate. Sections 6 and 7 of this legislation ensure no impact on religious liberty.

Adopting this new and unnecessary amendment would unsettle the Senate's carefully crafted compromise and delay the enactment of this necessary, historic, and bipartisan legislation.

If the House passes this legislation, it will be sent straight to the President's desk to become law. This Congress is coming to a close, and we don't have the time to make changes to this legislation.

This bill has gone through both the House and Senate and through the American public, and I believe it needs to be signed into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters in support of this legislation from the Interfaith Alliance, from U.S. Jewish organizations, and from eight leaders of faith-based organizations representing tens of millions of Americans and hundreds of religious institutions.

NOVEMBER 28, 2022.

Hon. TAMMY BALDWIN,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS BALDWIN AND COLLINS: The Respect for Marriage Act is a simple way to provide legal stability for all married couples and their families. Within our communities, we approach matters of marriage, family, and identity differently. This bill recognizes this diversity of belief while ensuring that same-sex and interracial couples are treated with equal respect by federal and state governments.

As faith-based organizations, we recognize that the First Amendment right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy.

The bipartisan substitute amendment provides important clarification around the interaction between the Respect for Marriage Act and the robust religious freedom protections guaranteed under federal law. Crafted in the spirit of collaboration, the amendment protects the right to believe as we choose while leaving intact the core mission of the legislation to respect marriages.

The freedom to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity and supported by a majority of almost every major religious tradition in the United States. We urge the Senate to adopt the bipartisan amendment in full, without further amendment needed to protect religious freedom.

Respectfully,

Interfaith Alliance, ADL (The Anti-Defamation League), Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Faithful America, Hindu American Foundation, Hindus for Human Rights, Jewish Women International, Keshet.

Muslims for Progressive Values, National Council of Jewish Women, NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, The Sikh Coalition, Sojourners, Union for Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ.

Washington, DC, September 6, 2022.

U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS' LETTER TO SENATE SUPPORTING RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, Keshet, and 108 additional Jewish organizations, the following letter was shared in support of the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556):

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the 100 undersigned national, state, and local Jewish organizations, we write to express our support for the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556). Driven by our Jewish values, we are committed to supporting laws that protect the civil rights and individual liberties of all people. The Respect for Marriage Act would codify three landmark Supreme Court cases, *Obergefell v. Hodges*; *Windsor v. United States*; and *Loving v. Virginia*, and therefore the basic rights of same-sex and interracial marriage. We urge Congress to swiftly pass this important bill.

Jewish tradition teaches that all people are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the Divine image, and are worthy of dignity and respect. As organizations grounded in Jewish values and beliefs, we have an ethical and moral responsibility to fight for a society that ensures the humanity of all people. Every person is entitled to marry who they love—regardless of sexual orientation or race.

Indeed, support for same-sex marriage protections extends across the faith community, and throughout the country. A majority of all faith groups—including 77 percent of Jews, 57 percent of mainline Protestants, and 57 percent of Catholics support same sex marriage. This view is shared by seven in ten Americans—including 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 55 percent of Republicans.

Additionally, the Respect for Marriage Act would ensure that all federal benefits are available to married couples regardless of the state in which they live. Congress has a responsibility to pursue economic equity for all, regardless of geographical location, and include historically marginalized groups in this pursuit.

The right to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity. Our faith teaches us

the *kol yisrael arevim ezh bazeh*, we are all responsible for each other, and therefore must take action to create a community for which we all can take pride.

As Jewish organizations, we believe firmly that all people deserve the right to marry who they love, regardless of sexual orientation or race. We urge Congress to pass the Respect for Marriage Act.

Sincerely,

Union for Reform Judaism, Keshet, ADL (Anti-Defamation League), ADL Austin Region, ADL Florida, ADL New England, ADL New York/New Jersey, ADL San Diego, ADL Southeast, ADL Southwest, ADL Texoma, ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, Ameinu, American Conference of Cantors, American Jewish World Service, Avodah, Aytzim, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Beth Chayim Chadashim, B'nai B'rith Connect, California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA), Carolina Jews for Justice, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Coastal Roots Farm, Columbia Jewish Congregation, Congregation Agudas Achim, Austin Texas, Congregation Har HaShem, Boulder, CO; Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Florida Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-FL), Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Havurat Shalom, Andover MA, IKAR, Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL), J Street, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Jewish Community Action, Jewish Community Center of Asheville, Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties, Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

Jewish Emergent Network, Jewish Family Service Houston, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Network, LLC (JTEEN), Jewish Women International, Jewish Youth Climate Movement, Jews for a Secular Democracy, Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), Jewtina y Co., JQY (Jewish Queer Youth), JYCA (Jewish Youth for Community Action), Kane Street Synagogue, Lab/Shul, Makom Shelanu.

Malkhut: progressive Jewish spirituality in Queens, Massachusetts Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-MA), MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Men of Reform Judaism, Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Mishkan Chicago, Moving Traditions, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Jewish Women New York, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, New Israel Fund, New Jersey Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NJ), New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NY), Ohio Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-OH), Peninsula Jewish Community Center, Pennsylvania Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-PA), Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructing Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

Romemu, SAI-Judaism that Stands for All, Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School, Shalom Austin, Sixth Circle Consulting, Society for Humanistic Judaism, St. Paul Jewish Federation, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for

Human Rights, TBE, Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Temple Beth El (Tacoma), Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, Temple Kol Emeth, Temple Ohabei Shalom, Temple Shir Tikva, Texas Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-TX), The Shalom Center, The Temple—Atlanta GA, The Workers Circle, Tivnu: Building Justice, Tribe 12, Tzedek Georgia, USY, Women of Reform Judaism.

NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

Re The Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404)
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC 20515

DEAR SENATORS: We are leaders of faith-based organizations representing tens of millions of Americans and hundreds of religious institutions. All our organizations hold to an understanding of marriage as between one man and one woman. Many of us privately expressed concerns about the House-passed version of the Respect for Marriage Act.

We are gratified by the substitute religious freedom language offered by Senators Collins, Baldwin, Sinema, Portman, Tillis, and Romney. It adequately protects the core religious freedom concerns raised by the bill, including tax exempt status, educational funding, government grants and contracts, and eligibility for licenses, certification, and accreditation. If passed, it would continue to build on the congressional wisdom represented by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA).

Attached are many statements from individual organizations.

Sincerely,

ELDER JACK N. GERARD,
The Quorum of the
Seventy, The Church
of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints.

MELISSA REID,
Director of Govern-
ment Affairs, Sev-
enth-day Adventist
Church—North Amer-
ican Division.

NATHAN J. DIAMENT,
Executive Director for
Public Policy, Union
of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of
America.

SHIRLEY HOOGSTRA,
President, Council for
Christian Colleges
and Universities.

REV. JUSTIN E. GIBONEY,
President, AND Cam-
paign.

STANLEY CARLSON-THIES,
Founder and Senior
Director, Institu-
tional Religious
Freedom Alliance.

STEPHANIE SUMMERS,
CEO, Center for Public
Justice.

TIM SCHULTZ,
President, 1st Amend-
ment Partnership.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, if I could, I would inquire as to whether or not the gentlewoman has additional speakers.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I have one additional speaker.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the

distinguished chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule for the Respect for Marriage Act.

In all my decades of public service, I have never wavered in my support for the LGBTQ+ community. In 1990, I introduced the first legislation in New York State history to grant legal recognition to same-sex couples. When the Defense of Marriage Act was introduced in 1996, I was one of 67 House Members to vote against it. I knew then what I know now: DOMA was a bigoted, discriminatory solution to a problem that never existed.

It never made sense that I could get into a cab and meet someone that I have never met before, a cab driver, and marry a complete stranger. You could marry the driver that day. Yet a bold, brave New Yorker, and a friend of mine, named Edie Windsor could not have her marriage recognized. She took that fight to the Supreme Court and won.

Mr. Speaker, the Respect for Marriage Act will ensure LGBTQ equality, but much more work needs to be done. I thank Chairman NADLER for this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), a former chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is important what we are doing here because our friends, the Democrats, were arguing that there is no additional rights of action, that this isn't going to change anything. In fact, this same discussion that we are having, if that is true, and we are going to say that we take them at their word, that would mean no rights of action would take place as a result of this law.

Any judge would be able to look at the reason why we are passing this and the intent that would be on the floor of the House of Representatives, and that is what is being stated here tonight: No right of action; that is not what this is about.

I would hope that we would understand, just as when I was the chairman of the Rules Committee, that what we did and the way we talked on this floor is what the intent would be for a judge, for a lawsuit. If something were to happen, they would open up the RECORD, just as we are doing here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and a judge, magistrate, Federal judge, State district judge, anyone ruling on this constitutional right would be able to see that this is not about a right of action.

So, let's be clear. That was stated point blank in this discussion on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was reiterated up at the Rules Committee at the time that the rule came to the floor. That is what is stated. I will accept that as their word.

I thank the gentleman from Lewisville, Texas, for his time and

service to the Rules Committee. I spent 20 years on the darn committee, 6 years as chairman, and I understood when we handled matters that we spoke clearly and that we spoke directly about the intent of the law. I have heard enough to understand that, and I appreciate Mr. BURGESS for yielding to me.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I would again inquire whether my colleague has any further testimony.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, if the gentlewoman is prepared to close.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

In closing, I would note that today's rule is, in fact, the product of a very rushed legislative process. The bill should have been subject to regular order so that it could be improved to address religious liberty concerns noted by my fellow Members.

The very fact that we have had this discussion here on the floor to me indicates that there is some ambiguity. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and Chairman SESSIONS for coming and raising the argument.

Section 6 of this bill provides protection of religious liberty, but only if you are religious enough. If you are a church, you are protected. If you are an individual or a school, you may not be, and you may be subject to that private right of action.

What we are voting on today is emblematic of how this one-party Democratic rule has been enforced in Washington, D.C., over the past 2 years. I am discouraged to see the majority is still focused on passing partisan messaging bills which will not address the problems they purportedly claim to want to solve.

This week, we are considering partisan bills instead of focusing our efforts on things like funding the Federal Government, maybe even the authorization for the Nation's defense, one of the requirements under the Constitution that we fulfill.

Unfortunately, tonight, this is a continuation of a discouraging and regrettable trend that I hope will be revisited by a new Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, tonight's vote should be an easy one. The Respect for Marriage Act passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support, and the bill is supported by over 70 percent of Americans. It provides critical safeguards for a right that many Americans have already exercised and rely upon for the protection and prosperity of their families.

The Respect for Marriage Act is historic legislation to protect the marriages of same-sex and interracial couples. I don't think history will look kindly on those who, when given the

ability to protect the rights and freedoms of their constituents, chose to say no.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the LGBTQ community, my cousins, my dearest friends and neighbors, religious communities across the country, and, of course, the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection, which I am so proud to represent, I stand in strong support of the Respect for Marriage Act, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 204, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

YEAS—217

Adams	Dingell	Levin (MI)
Aguilar	Doggett	Lieu
Allred	Doyle, Michael	Lofgren
Auchincloss	F.	Lowenthal
Axne	Escobar	Luria
Barragán	Eshoo	Lynch
Bass	Españillat	Malinowski
Beatty	Evans	Maloney
Bera	Fletcher	Carolyn B.
Beyer	Foster	Maloney, Sean
Bishop (GA)	Frankel, Lois	Manning
Blumenauer	Galleo	Matsui
Blunt Rochester	Garamendi	McBath
Bonamici	Garcia (IL)	McCollum
Bourdeaux	Garcia (TX)	McGovern
Bowman	Golden	McNerney
Boyle, Brendan	Gomez	Meeks
F.	Gonzalez,	Meng
Brown (MD)	Vicente	Mfume
Brown (OH)	Gottheimer	Moore (WI)
Brownley	Green, Al (TX)	Morelle
Bush	Grijalva	Moulton
Bustos	Harder (CA)	Mrvan
Butterfield	Hayes	Murphy (FL)
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Nadler
Cárdenas	Himes	Napolitano
Carson	Horsford	Neal
Carter (LA)	Houlihan	Neguse
Cartwright	Hoyer	Newman
Case	Huffman	Norcross
Casten	Jackson Lee	O'Halleran
Castor (FL)	Jacobs (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Castro (TX)	Jayapal	Omar
Cherfilus-	Jeffries	Pallone
McCormick	Johnson (GA)	Panetta
Chu	Johnson (TX)	Pappas
Cicilline	Jones	Pascarell
Clark (MA)	Kahele	Payne
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Peltola
Cleaver	Keating	Perlmutter
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Peters
Cohen	Khanna	Phillips
Connolly	Kildee	Pingree
Cooper	Kilmer	Pocan
Correa	Kim (NJ)	Porter
Costa	Kind	Pressley
Courtney	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Quigley
Crow	Kuster	Raskin
Cuellar	Lamb	Rice (NY)
Davids (KS)	Langevin	Ross
Davis, Danny K.	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard
Dean	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
DeFazio	Lawrence	Ruppersberger
DeGette	Lawson (FL)	Rush
DeLauro	Lee (CA)	Ryan (NY)
DelBene	Lee (NV)	Sánchez
Demings	Leger Fernandez	Sarbanes
DeSaulnier	Levin (CA)	Scanlon

Shakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Conway
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Flores
Fox
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)

Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suzoi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone

NAYS—204

Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Weston
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Oberholte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sempolinski
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dune
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—10

Bergman
Buck
Cheney
Donalds
Kinzinger
McHenry
Murphy (NC)
Rice (SC)
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)

□ 2001

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, please accept this personal explanation as I was unexpectedly detained during vote proceedings. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 512.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE

RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)	Jacobs (NY)	Palazzo
Baird (Bucshon)	(Sempolinski)	(Fleischmann)
Bass (Cicilline)	Johnson (TX)	Pascarell
Beatty (Neguse)	(Pallone)	(Pallone)
Brooks	Kahele (Correa)	Payne (Pallone)
(Fleischmann)	Kildee (Pappas)	Pressley
Brown (MD)	Kirkpatrick	(Neguse)
(Beyer)	(Pallone)	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Lawrence	(Correa)
(Pallone)	(Garcia (TX))	Ruppersberger
Doyle, Michael	Lawson (FL)	(Sarbanes)
F. (Pallone)	(Wasserman)	Rush (Beyer)
Duncan	Schultz	Simpson
(Norman)	Lieu (Beyer)	(Fulcher)
Dunn (Salazar)	Malliotakis	Sires (Pallone)
Evans (Beyer)	(Gimenez)	Swalwell
Gosar (Weber	Maloney, Sean P.	(Correa)
(TX))	(Pappas)	Titus (Pallone)
Grijalva (Neguse)	Mfume (Beyer)	Torres (NY)
Hayes (Neguse)	Napolitano	(Pappas)
Herrera Beutler	(Correa)	Wagner
(Stewart)	Neal (Beyer)	(Fleischmann)
Hice (GA)	Newman (Correa)	Welch (Pallone)
(Boebert)	O'Halleran	Wenstrup
Huffman (Levin	(Pappas)	(LaHood)
(CA))		Yarmuth (Beyer)

ENSURING LIBERTY FOR UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today is day number 286 of Russia's unprovoked, illegal terrorist war on Ukraine.

As Congress works to complete our 2023 appropriations bills, it is critical that the appropriation accounts for defense and energy security be fully funded. Let us be mindful that liberty has real enemies.

Our Nation, in alliance with the free nations of the world, cannot miss a beat in ensuring NATO remains the strongest defender of global liberty.

Vladimir Putin's criminal war on its innocent neighbor began in 2014. By crossing Ukraine's sovereign border, Putin violated every tenet of international law that has existed since World War II.

Then in February of this year, Russia unleashed its full terror. The free world must draw a bold line in the sand against Russia's illegal behavior.

Any nation that does not respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of adjoining nations must be brought to full reckoning.

The free world cannot stand by idly. Putin's war machine must be defeated.

The people of Ukraine are fighting valiantly for their own freedom. May the bills being drafted as I speak ensure our Nation meets its obligation as liberty's primary defender.

RECOGNIZING 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 81st anniversary of National Bible Week.

In 1941, weeks before the United States entered into World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving as National Bible Week. This celebration recognizes the spiritual and historical significance of the Bible. It is a week where we can come together and celebrate this holy book. The Bible shaped our Nation's history and continues to provide guidance to the lives of so many.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to live in a country where we can freely read Scripture and worship the Lord without fear of persecution. The Bible is timeless and continues to provide us with words of wisdom, comfort, and guidance as we navigate unprecedented times.

Madam Speaker, I leave you with this verse from 2 Timothy 3:16–17, one that I keep close to my heart: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING LONDON SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the third grade classes at Landon School.

In the class of Ms. Brown is my nephew, Jake, who, like his fellow classmates, works very hard to treat others with respect and honor.

That is one of the important principles of Landon because Landon holds firmly to the conviction that character matters, and they aim to graduate students who will positively impact their communities.

The Landon third graders are off to a good start, recently finishing a unit on the three branches of government.

I am honored they have asked me to join them over Zoom to tell them about what it is like being a Member of Congress.

I applaud Landon students for showing interest in the important work of serving in government, and I expect, Madam Speaker, that one day some of them will end up right here, speaking at the podium. Go Bears.

CONGRATULATING TAKEITA TOLLMAN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah attorney Takeita Tollman for her placement on the Georgia Trend 40 Under 40 list.

Takeita is a very impressive young woman who has dedicated her life to public service. She began her career as a certified nurse assistant in high school, intending to become a doctor upon graduation.

Once she reached college, she realized that her passion was in writing and turned to a career in the legal profession.

Takeita attended law school at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Takeita's legal specialties are Social Security disability, workers' compensation, and personal injury.

Takeita is serving some of the most vulnerable within our community. She is dedicated to helping people not just in the office but after hours, too.

She is a member of the Port City Bar Association and offers job shadowing to members of 100 Black Men of America. She also organized a sock drive for Savannah's homeless population.

I am proud to say that stories like Takeita's aren't uncommon in Savannah, though this makes them no less impressive. It just shows the kind of city we are.

I take this opportunity to thank Georgia Trend for recognizing Takeita's excellent work today and congratulate her on making the 40 Under 40 list.

ONGOING CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. FULCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the ongoing crisis at our southern border.

Recently, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas stated that the border is secure. No one, including the Border Patrol agents he is tasked with leading, believes that assertion.

The truth is, in the last month, border agents reported over 70,000 apprehensions at the southern border, the highest month on record.

Now, you may ask yourself: Why is a Member of Congress from Idaho concerned about what is happening 700 miles away?

The truth is, the Biden administration's dereliction of duty at the border has consequences for millions of Americans across the country, including my constituents in Idaho.

Idaho Sheriff Kieran Donahue raised the alarm on how our porous border and drug cartels are creating the

fentanyl crisis in so many communities, warning that due to these policies, fentanyl is at everyone's doorstep.

In 26 days, Republicans will take control of this Chamber, and the Biden administration should be prepared to take account for their complete failure to address this border crisis.

□ 2015

WE ARE A NATION OF CARING AND HUMANITARIANISM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, 18 days before this Nation turns its eyes toward a beautiful recognition—for those of us who practice the understanding of the birth of our Lord—Christmas—and the many other faiths that will celebrate their special days in their own way—Brittney Griner still remains incarcerated in the most devastating, horrific, cruel, and brutal conditions. She must come home, along with Paul Whelan.

At the same time, I stand with the defenders of democracy, Ukraine, and hope that we will provide the resources necessary and be able to accept their fight for democracy while our former President asks to suspend our Constitution. Let us do the support for Ukraine and not suspend the Constitution.

Finally, ravaging floods are still plaguing the people of Pakistan. We have asked for \$600 million. They deserve those dollars to be able to restore their lives—pregnant women, families, farmers suffering and starving. It is necessary, as an ally of the United States, that we try to respond in this funding cycle now—dollars needed for Pakistan.

I look forward to working with the administration to provide the relief that they need. We are a Nation of caring and humanitarianism.

Bring Brittney Griner home now.

MAKE AMERICA MORE SAFE AND SECURE

(Mr. FALLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, it shouldn't be a partisan issue when we talk about the border and border security.

You know what it really comes down to?

It is the United States of America versus the Mexican drug cartels.

In April of this year, we had 234,000 illegal border crossings. It was the worst on record, by the way, only to be exceeded the very next month, in May, by 241,000 illegal border crossings.

Why do I mention this?

Because we don't know who these people are. No one ever talks about the 3.8 million people in the world that are

waiting to come to this country legally, to respect the laws and the rules of the country that they want to become a part of—who are exactly the kind of folks that we want to come here.

Another thing nobody ever talks about is 95 percent of those people are people of color, and they are going to be wonderful people that make America stronger.

The Mexican drug cartels are making, on estimate, \$25 billion a year, and now they are charging \$4,000 a head for illegal crossings, which adds another \$12 billion to their pockets. And we have had 107,000 deaths last year alone to opioid overdoses.

We need to unite as Americans, secure our southern border, and make our country more secure and Americans safer.

REPUBLICAN CONTROL WILL PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRODUCE RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friends for joining us on the floor tonight at this late hour. It has been a long day on Capitol Hill, but there are things that need to be said here.

It is December again, and of course that means that we are in the homestretch of a new Congress, this Congress, the 117th. The homestretch of any Congress, as we know, is when the threat of bad legislating is at its most pronounced. We have certainly seen all that here this week.

Government appropriations have been taken hostage by Democrats who want to spend even more. They seem to have forgotten about the trillions of dollars that have already been spent earlier this year.

The NDAA has been taken hostage just today by Democrats who think the right to vote is under some sort of secret threat. I guess they didn't pay attention to the massive voter turnout in Georgia just yesterday.

Here tonight, they rushed through a rule to codify same-sex marriage and create a private right of action that will vilify and supercharge attacks on people of faith.

Madam Speaker, this lame duck session is doing serious and lasting harm

to our Republic, and I guess it is a fitting end to this—what really has been a disastrous Congress overall under Democrat rule. We have with trillions upon trillions in government spending, sending inflation for all American families soaring.

We have had votes on immensely consequential, complex, thousand-plus-page bills, handed to us just hours before those votes. We have had Members dial into congressional hearings from their bedrooms and basements and even while on vacation in Europe—proxy voting. Thankfully, this is all about to come to an end, mercifully in less than a month.

The American people have spoken and the American people have given Republicans control of this body to provide accountability and produce results.

Madam Speaker, this is a legislative body and it is high time for this body to get back to the work that we are supposed to be doing for the American people. Come January, that is exactly what we intend to do.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining us here today to talk about all of it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding and for claiming the time this evening.

Madam Speaker, in 27 days, adherence to the constitutional principles will be returned to this institution.

In 27 days, accountability will be returned to our government.

In 27 days, Republicans will take the majority in this Chamber, secure the committee gavels, and begin the long climb to deliver a strong economy, a safe Nation, a free future, and an accountable government.

I say “the long climb” because over the course of the last 2 years of one-party Democratic rule in Washington, America has lost its way. We have seen trillions of hard-earned tax dollars and trillions borrowed from the next generation wasted. We have seen our national border overrun with millions of illegal immigrants and enough illicit and deadly fentanyl to kill every American many times over.

After decades of trying, America finally successfully achieved energy independence under the Trump administration. But in 2 years we have seen this country driven back into the ditch of energy dependence on foreign dictators and the high energy prices that come with it.

We have seen the funding of an army of 87,000 new IRS agents to go after the middle-class, working Americans in this country, catastrophic failures in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, and a justice system targeting concerned parents, vaccine mandates damaging our military readiness, unelected bureaucrats run amok in virtue signaling, and Big Tech in cahoots

with our government to stifle free speech for half of the American citizenry.

That is a mind-boggling amount of damage over 2 short years, and even a strong Nation like America can only take so much. But, thankfully, the turnaround begins on January 3, 2023, when Republicans retake the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All of these issues are vitally important to the good folks back in my home of middle Tennessee. But I truly believe no issue is more important than that of the right to free speech. George Washington said, “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

We recently learned that Twitter colluded with the Biden campaign and allegedly the FBI to suppress damaging information to President Biden's campaign. This only makes me wonder:

What else are these Big Tech companies hiding?

Soon enough, we will be able to find out.

Additionally, Securities and Exchange Commissioner Gary Gensler appears to be on a mission to destroy our small farms and businesses. He failed to provide proper oversight of crypto companies while cozying up to the biggest crypto fraud of the last decade, all while not appearing before the House Financial Services Committee in over 428 days.

Proper oversight will be on its way in 27 days.

Madam Speaker, for too long unelected bureaucrats have not had to answer to the American people. Make no mistake: no stone will go unturned in order to deliver the accountability the American people truly deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is so well said. There are so many issues to cover.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, he so quite correctly outlined some of the difficulties facing Congress as we get to this end-of-the-year crunch of legislation that has to pass before the end of the year.

There is no place where this is more pronounced than for our Nation's doctors. The very people that we asked to get us through the pandemic, the very people that we have asked to take care of us. And now we arrive at the end of this Congress, and we say: Thank you for your service, here is your pay cut. And they go: Wait, what? A paycheck.

The Surgeon General came to the Doctors Caucus earlier this year and said he is concerned. He goes around and talks to doctors all over the country, he is concerned about the level of burnout that he is seeing in the Nation's physicians. He said he has never seen this before.

It really should not be a surprise. You work doctors and nurses day and night during the pandemic, and then

you turn around and say, You know what, we don't value what you do. The evidence for that is right as we barrel into the end of the year, there are significant cuts to the physician fee schedule, sequesters, paygo, budget neutrality requirements that in aggregate spell about an 8 to 9 percent reduction in payments for physicians.

For years, I fought to repeal the sustainable growth rate formula. The sustainable growth rate formula was repealed in 2015. I thought, hallelujah, we won't spend every December having to worry about how to make our doctors whole because the formula has gone away.

But now through administrative actions and through budgetary requirements, doctors are facing these pay cuts. So here we are in another December trying to scramble together a doc fix so our doctors can remain in practice.

But what makes this year so different and what makes this year so devastating to the Nation's doctors is on top of the 8 to 9 percent cuts in Medicare, they are facing 8 to 9 percent inflation. Nowhere else in the Federal Government could you say, Hey, we are going to hold you at level funding and not take into account the fact that the cost of living adjustment—it would be a pay cut anywhere else.

Well, I will tell you this, it is a pay cut in your doctor's office, and they are feeling it. The aggregate weight of these pay cuts is going to be such that we will drive doctors out of practice. I hear from docs all the time that they are going to have to close up shop.

What does that mean? It means further consolidation within the healthcare industry. It means further hospital zoning physician practices, private equity-only physician practices because we just can't keep up with what the government is doing to us.

Now, there is a chance that something will happen before the end of this year and stop these cuts before they are administered. But I will tell you this, in the new Congress—in the next Congress—it is my intention that we have to be very serious about tackling this problem in our authorizing committees.

Madam Speaker, I am on the Committee of Energy and Commerce, I expect that very early in the year we will be intentional about fixing this problem because we can't find ourselves here in December of another year where our docs are saying, We are at the end of our ropes, and we just can't take it anymore.

This is a serious problem; it needs to be fixed. President Biden would talk about, Hey, Republicans, they are going to cut your Social Security and Medicare.

Well, Mr. President, you know who is cutting Medicare right now?

You are. It is your agency, and you won't stop it. Next Congress, Republicans will.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the doctor for high-

lighting that. It is such an important issue, and just one more example of so much that has gone wrong here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about immigration. The Democrats and the mainstream media need to take responsibility for their cover-up of President Biden's border crisis.

The liberal media hasn't made a peep about the fact that over 4 million illegals have been encountered at our southern border since President Biden took office. That is a record number, Madam Speaker, 4 million people. We have never seen this before.

They also kept the Biden administration's dirty little secret when it started flying illegals into Knoxville, Chattanooga, and all over the country in the dead of night without telling anyone, without telling the State authorities, and definitely not telling the Congressman from the Second Congressional District about it.

But then the media had a field day when Republican Governors sent a few buses of illegals to New York and Martha's Vineyard. I kept waiting for one of them to say, Buffy, quick, we have got illegals out here.

This administration is trying to keep us focused on things like climate change and woke social programs instead of their disastrous handling of our southern border. Of course, the media follows the Democrats' lead like a lost puppy dog. They cover what the Democrats want them to cover, and it is a shameful way to do journalism—a once respectable occupation.

□ 2030

It is a disgusting cover up of a very simple truth. We desperately need to close the dadgum border, Madam Speaker, and strengthen our immigration laws.

We need to reform our asylum system, which is a total joke, so illegal immigrants aren't eligible if they travel through a safe third country. We need to clarify in our laws that gang and domestic violence are not grounds for asylum; those are grounds for moving neighborhoods, not moving countries, Madam Speaker.

We also need to fully implement some policies like the Remain in Mexico policy, which is a reasonable policy, and which is critical to our national security, Madam Speaker.

Our liberal media need to stop kowtowing to the Democrats and start reporting on the facts. The American people deserve to know what is going on. And I guarantee you, the more they know, the more they will demand these kind of real changes from the disastrous Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON for his more-than-lackluster attempt at democracy tonight. I, for one, enjoy it, and these young people over here seem to be enjoying it themselves, all five of those young people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I really do have the honor to yield next to a friend and colleague who will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

Since 2005, he has represented the dozen counties stretching nearly 120 miles down Texas' eastern border with Louisiana. I represent one of his neighboring districts over that border; and in our region and, in fact, I can say nationwide, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT is a household name.

Prior to his election to Congress 9 terms ago, he served as a district judge in Texas, and Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals of Texas. He is also a captain in the U.S. Army. He served our Nation bravely.

Judge Gohmert has been a bold defender of America's founding principles his entire life and career; and whether he is leading a debate in our House Judiciary Committee, or in the Natural Resources Committee, or setting the example for all of us with his tireless advocacy here on this House floor, LOUIE GOHMERT has been a consummate servant for the people and for our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my friend and my colleague.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for his kind comments. The truth is, he is one of the reasons I am comfortable leaving.

There have been times when I was extremely concerned about people standing up for what is right; whether it was standing up to our own leadership or leadership of the country, including the White House, leadership of our own party, or the other party. But I have been encouraged; that is why I was willing to take a big chance on running for office statewide, even though I got in so late.

That was a matter that I will not be able to save Texas from suffering; but I have got great comfort here.

What does concern me greatly about our country, I think the bill that was just—we took up the rule on just now, concerns me.

As I know my brother, MIKE JOHNSON, knows and believes, as one of the leaders I know here on the floor, Moses, we believe, got word directly from God, and Moses passed that on, saying that a man shall leave his father and mother and a woman leave her home and the two will become one.

When Jesus was asked a question about marriage and divorce, he quoted Moses verbatim. Jesus, of course, some people say, was a great teacher, taught a lot of great things. But as C.S. Lewis pointed out, he said he was God. He said he was one on with the Father. He said so many things like that, it is very clear, he didn't have a choice to say he was a good teacher because he was either a liar, a lunatic, or he was Lord, as he said.

But the Founders, the huge majority of the Founders were not only believers

in what Moses and Jesus taught, but they were strong practicing Christians.

Nowadays, school children are taught, Ben Franklin was a deist, someone who believes, basically, that some deity, something, some force, created the universe, and if that deity, thing, force, whatever, still exists today, it never interferes with the ways of men.

But if you go back to the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin gave a speech when things looked like they had come to an end; they were going to go no further. There was so much yelling and disagreement.

Ben Franklin was recognized by the President of the Convention, President George Washington, and he pointed out that they had had so much disagreement over everything, and he said—he pointed back to the Continental Congress, and he said: In the beginning contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered.

That is not a deist saying those things. But he went on to say—and these are His words. We know because the speech was so profound others there asked him for a copy, and he sat down and wrote the speech and everybody that heard it looked and said, yeah, that is exactly what he said.

He went on to say, we know: I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth. God governs in the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible a nation could rise without his aid?

He said: We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writing, that a nation cannot rise without his aid; a home will not rise without his aid. And he assured that this nation could not be built without his aid.

In this book, "Wall of Misconception," by Pastor Emeritus, former head of the Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia, Peter Lillback, a great historian, he points out that President Washington, in his first inaugural address, frequently referred to the Almighty. His very first act as President was to pray. Washington prayed that God would secure the liberties of the new Nation.

He went on to say that no one should be more grateful to God than the people of the United States of America in light of what God had done for them throughout the war. Although the new nation had just gone through the tumultuous time after the revolution of creating a new civil government, the process fraught with sectional rivalries and tensions was accomplished in a peacefully unique way that called for pious gratitude—those were his words—since this implied even more divine blessings to come.

The implication Washington drew from all of this was that America could not expect the continuing "smiles of

heaven" if the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained were disregarded.

We must remember that when Washington attended the Anglican churches of his day, he, along with the congregation, recited the Ten Commandments from the list behind the altar.

In Washington's historical context, "the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained" could only refer to the Ten Commandments, given that this was the belief of almost every American in Washington's day who read or heard his inaugural address.

Along with his solemn inaugural address that graced America's first auspicious pageant of civil religion, Washington's inauguration contributed other religious precedents.

He was sworn in as President with the use of the Bible. This Bible has been sacredly kept by the Masons of New York City. The page where Washington placed his hand for the oath of office was marked by the turning down of the corner of the page. Interestingly, the marked page is Genesis 49, the chapter where Jacob, the father of the sons of Israel, bestows his blessings upon them.

By this time, Washington had long been called the "Father of His Country". The parallel of the text in the inauguration was not accidental.

Tradition has that he said, so help me God. That was not a written part of the oath. Then he bent down and he kissed the Bible.

But the religious elements of Washington's inauguration were still not complete. Next, he led the Congressmen and everyone else across the street from Federal Hall to St. Paul's Chapel for a 2-hour service of Christian worship to commit the new nation to God.

According to Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, she knelt with President Washington as they received the Eucharist together. This is part of our history. That was the very beginning.

It is interesting to note, as Jonathan Cahn did, that on 9/11, the one building that was considered part of Ground Zero was not broken, cracked, damaged whatsoever, was that very St. Paul's Chapel, where our Nation was committed to God during that period in which all of the Members of Congress, the President, Vice President Adams, they were all there participating in that time of prayer and committing this Nation to God, to the Almighty.

On visiting there, I was informed that the graveyard that is right behind the chapel on the side facing the Twin Towers, that when they fell, a huge tree, sycamore tree, at the back of the cemetery was completely uprooted. Jonathan Cahn pointed this out.

But there, the proprietor, the caretaker said that tree fell across all those graves and not one gravestone was cracked, broken, harmed in any way, nor was the chapel, not even a window cracked. It was seen to be a

miracle the way that building where our Nation was first committed to God was so very protected. Amazing, the history.

I know that there have been civilizations throughout history that have recognized same-sex union. But if you do enough digging, you find that when it came to actual marriage, that that was considered part of having children and a family, as God had said, go forth and multiply. That was considered—marriage was considered for having children and building a family.

Yes, of course, you can build a wonderful family by adoption. Now we are told that men can get pregnant. We wonder, you know, with the incredible advances of medicine, just how much man will take on the role of being his own God. It is a very dangerous thing because every time a nation has gotten to that point, they didn't last much longer.

□ 2045

If you want to attribute that to just nature or nature's God, as our Founders did, then you have your choice, but it did not bode well for such a Nation.

Now, back when the United States was a majority, a vast majority, of strong Christians, leaders of the country could appeal to the Judeo-Christian beliefs and the teachings of Moses, of the prophets, of Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament. Those things could be appealed to in the hearts of most Americans, and they would find great reception.

Now, the polls, studies, and surveys indicate that a majority of Americans do not attend church and do not seem to believe in a loving God. The appeals, therefore, of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an ordained Christian pastor, who appealed to the better nature in America, that love was stronger than hate, and love could overcome hate, and love would bring the Nation together.

But since there are so few now, most don't seem to have a common agreement about the Judeo-Christian teaching that once overwhelmed the Nation at a time early on, when Harvard was established, Yale was established, basically to teach Christianity and educate people for a great future.

In fact, if you go back and look at the pledge that students had to make about their devotion to Jesus Christ, it is really staggering. But that is how things were started. That was an amazing start for this country.

Only a country that had turned its back on the teachings of Dr. King and the person that Dr. King called his Lord and Savior could become so hypocritical as we have as a Nation. We think, too often, we are God; we know better than God; we know better than Moses.

I expect sometime that his bust depicted in the middle of this Chamber as the greatest lawgiver of all time, somebody will complain that needs to be taken down. Never mind the fact that

there are great lawgivers, like Hammurabi. Some have been talking about the Code of Hammurabi and the Justinian code. Those are people who are up there.

Most people are not aware Napoleon was a lawgiver through the Napoleonic Code. Thomas Jefferson is up there. People hopefully are aware he was not at the Constitutional Convention; he was representing us in Europe. But he did help with the Northwest Ordinances and was in Virginia. He helped with laws that became a helpful framework for our Constitution and our laws.

Democrats preach long and loud that George W. Bush was not a legitimate President, that he stole the election of 2000 and stole the election of 2004. For that reason, they then objected to his election on the House floor on January 6 not of 2021 but of 2001. Then there was objection on this floor January 6 of 2005.

Although we sat here and waited for our chance to vote on the counting of the electors, no one in here realized that, according to so many Democrats today, when you object to electors, you are an election denier, treasonous, and guilty of sedition. None of us suspected that at the time that objections were made on the other side of the aisle.

In fact, on January 6, 2017, when we had 11 different objections from Democrats saying that Trump stole the election, we didn't realize that, according to the Democrats, the Democrats that objected were guilty of treason and sedition and that they should really be run out of public altogether and should not be allowed to participate in government. In fact, they shouldn't be allowed to actually be seen out in public. It was so despicable that their neighbors should reject them and run them out of the neighborhood.

None of us on this side of the aisle—I remember—in 2005 and 2017, we didn't realize what the Democrats are now telling us, that those were acts of sedition and that they were showing themselves to be election deniers. We thought that because the Democrats were following the procedures that were set out in the Constitution, they were following their beliefs and their constitutional rights. We didn't dream that they were committing sedition and treason, as they are now saying that apparently they were doing.

It was shocking to me that Democrats were alleging that Donald Trump stole that election and that he stole it with the help of collusion with Russia. We heard those claims. It took a while longer, after a multimillion-dollar investigation that found nothing of the sort. Gee, it turns out, as the investigation has gone on, that actually the Democratic National Committee, the Clinton campaign, members of the FBI, members of the DOJ, and the intel community were working in conjunction first to prevent Donald Trump from getting elected and then also working after he was elected to have him removed from office.

Now, most of us were upset on this side of the aisle with the continued, ongoing, never-ending efforts to remove Donald Trump from the office to which he was duly elected. But we didn't realize that the Democrats' actions, according to their explanations now, amounted to sedition, treason, a coup d'etat, and all of these other things we have heard in the last 2 years.

It is shocking because I don't know of anybody on our side of the aisle who realized that what was going on, on the other side of the aisle, was actually an attempted coup and seditionist treason. We didn't realize that because we hadn't heard from the Democrats until the last 2 years that to raise such issues was exactly what they were saying.

Now, they have even hypocritically turned to the government, billionaire businesses, banks, and individuals to get them to go against Republicans and start letting some Republicans, like the President of the United States, know: "We don't like your politics, and we will never allow you to do business with our banks and our businesses. We are going to try to break you, bankrupt you." We didn't realize that those were helpful things to do on behalf of our Nation.

I don't think they are indicative of what Dr. King, the reverend that he was—he had studied the Bible. He had even studied Gandhi's life and how peace was the way to make progress, peaceful protest. He preached against going after your enemies, going after your opponents, trying to destroy them. He preached what he knew, and that was Christian love.

But what we have illustrated here is a Nation that has turned from God and, to borrow from Longfellow, to allow hate in this country to be strong and mock the song of peace on Earth, goodwill toward men.

Overall, this Nation was one in which the people could be appealed to on the basis of a loving God who through, we believe, the Savior pointed out the two most important commands, to love God and love each other, and on those two hang all the law, all the prophets.

Actually, if you were to do an outline and put love God and love your neighbor, you can put all the laws from the Ten Commandments and most laws today under one of those two.

We have been so blessed in this country. Our Founders, nearly all of them, believed it was because they were trying to pursue freedom.

Historically, as an old history major, as somebody who has never stopped reading and learning history, we look back, as so many historians have, at the American Revolution. Many believe that the American Revolution came about because of the great Christian awakening that occurred in the 1700s, when most of the Nation repented of sins, of wrongdoing, and asked for forgiveness. What grew was a love of liberty and a love of freedom.

Historians have looked back and said, wow, that war ended, and it ended

in the Treaty of Paris, 1783. I was surprised to see an exact duplicate of the Treaty of Paris, 1783, because of the huge words that started the Treaty of Paris. I did not realize that they were so big, and I didn't realize that is how it started. But if you think about making a treaty with the biggest, most powerful country in the world in 1783, what would you put on the document to scare Great Britain, with the biggest Army, biggest Navy, what would you start it with to make them afraid to break their oath? Well, the Founders started with the huge words: "In the name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity," Trinity talking about the Father, Son, Holy Ghost. "In the name of the most Holy and undivided trinity," that is how that started.

They thought that is powerful enough that even the British will be afraid to break that oath. That is what they signed.

□ 2100

Others pointed out that, in the 1800s, there was a great awakening, and that same yearning and love of freedom led so many to say that slavery must end, that we cannot continue.

Actually, Thomas Jefferson, of all people, put that as the biggest grievance in the Declaration of Independence, that King George ever allowed slavery to begin. Those who would say that the Nation started with slavery; no, Jefferson said it started in spite of it, that it was a blight on this country, and blamed King George for ever allowing it because it was damaging the country and would damage the country.

But in the 1800s, after the Nation's second great Christian awakening, we had a Civil War, and 500,000 Americans were lost, 500,000 casualties lost in that fight, but we emerged stronger out of it.

It took a while, but there were people who had the love Lincoln had developed. He started out in his twenties bragging that he was an atheist, but by the time he was President, as Stephen Mansfield points out in his book, "Lincoln's Battle with God," he knew there was a God. He knew God was at work, and he knew that they should have love for people even with whom they disagreed.

But our country has abandoned the teachings of Moses, of Jesus, of Dr. King. I have idolized the "I Have a Dream" speech for nearly all of my life. It is so profound. It provokes tears. It is so powerful.

But that part of the dream where people would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, we were so close. Now, this country has been fundamentally transformed, and, now, teachers are telling children to judge people by their skin color.

What has gone on? We have colleges that say that they are so omniscient that they know the way to go is to have segregated dormitories.

What happened to the dream? It has turned into a nightmare. How could this happen? Perhaps if there was a third great awakening, many believe, we could get back on track.

Why was the American Revolution successful? We didn't kill a lot of people after the American Revolution. We signed a peace treaty. We asked them to leave us alone, and we would leave them alone. So, why did the French Revolution end up with—you can find, I have seen estimates, some people say as few as 13,000 heads cut off with a guillotine. Some say 44,000 heads chopped off.

We didn't have that after the American Revolution. Why was that? Some historians say because ours was about love of freedom and liberty, as the Bible taught, and the French Revolution was about a love for revenge. We are seeing that vengefulness play out.

There is nothing wrong with disagreeing. As the preacher said—and I know in the 1960s Lyndon Johnson was given credit, but Dr. L.L. Morris said it back around 1950 before I was born, said it to my parents: If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

I have said that in deacons meetings at our church when people say we all ought to have exactly the same idea. No, it is good—since we are all human, nobody is perfect, and nobody has 100 percent lock on God's wisdom—that we exchange ideas, and we argue. It is okay to argue.

When I talk about a battle, I am talking about a battle of words. Some people in here are unarmed in a battle of words, and some are quite armed in a battle of words. But that is a good, healthy thing, to disagree. Otherwise, we would only need one dictator.

I am afraid we have been moving in that direction. So many of the things Orwell talked about are happening. We have people on the other side of the aisle who basically want a ministry of truth that will write down what the truth is, and anybody that disagrees with that will be guilty of a crime.

I haven't heard anybody on the other side of the aisle talk about the enforcement mechanism. That was called the ministry of love. They would pick you up, torture you, and keep you in the basement of the ministry of love, torturing days, weeks, years, whatever it took until you would repeat whatever they told you was the truth. It is the kind of thing that would kill a Galileo for saying that Earth was not the center of our solar system.

We need to have open minds, but it is important to learn from history because when you don't—everybody knows the saying—you are destined to repeat it.

We have a chance, and I believe with all my heart that it is because God is a merciful God. He has been mocked. We have his name right up here: In God We Trust. I know lots of people have been trying to get that down, but it is still there, and I know it will still be there for the next 2 years.

But we have to get over this thing of being vengeful. Even Federal judges here regarding January 6, like I have said before, people that committed violent acts, people that did destructive acts to this building, they deserve to be severely punished, but there were some that walked into the building and seemed to be welcomed. People say they are terrorists, and Federal judges have called them all kinds of names, called them seditionists, called them all kinds of things when they weren't rioting. Some were, and they need to be punished, and they have been.

But to have Federal judges throw the Constitution out the window and say: I haven't heard the evidence, but you are a seditionist, and you are dangerous. We need to make sure you are punished. You are a threat to the country—when there was no evidence of that for the individual before the judge.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), one of the great constitutional scholars in this body, and my friend, he really does understand the Constitution. One of the things I hope happens is that we will start subpoenaing judges. We impeached two Federal judges early on when I was here. It is time to bring them in and find out if there is a basis for impeaching them.

Are they going to continue to want to punish people in pretrial confinement, even though that is unconstitutional?

Are they going to continue to judge people and issue rulings when there is no evidence whatsoever on which to base the vile things they are saying about the individuals before them?

We need to know because if they are going to continue to be like Judge Roy Bean in his courtroom, which too many Federal judges are these days, it is time to stop it. Make them accountable. Let them know that there are checks and balances, and they are not God.

They took an oath, and they will be judged by that oath. If they are not following it, remove them. I hope that will happen, a shot across the bow.

I am grateful to have served in this body. I was hoping that, when I left, I would feel confident that our freedom was preserved for the next generations, at least the next one or two. I don't know. I see too many disturbing issues.

□ 2110

But I believe God is merciful, and he has given us a chance. I will be hopeful, and I will be praying for my colleagues that will be here next year. Let's get back on track. Let's don't do things out of hate. Let's don't do things out of revenge. Let's do things for a love of freedom so we don't have 44,000 people get their heads chopped off because people were overwhelmed and just insatiable wanting revenge.

I am very grateful to my friend for yielding to me today. He is a true—I started to say "patriot," but I know

some judge chastised someone for being a patriot; wanted to punish him more heavily.

So, hopefully, we can get back to a day when loving the country patriotically is a good thing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments. He has been a great example for that, and that was a fitting end to a long career and a lot of hours here on this floor articulating the truth and standing for America's founding principles.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), another good friend, colleague, and a patriot.

RECOGNIZING A. KEITH McDONALD

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a really close friend of mine and a strong leader for Bartlett, Tennessee, A. Keith McDonald.

After serving as the mayor of Bartlett for 20 years, Keith McDonald has decided it is time for a well-earned retirement.

Keith has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of our community in west Tennessee.

He is a graduate of Clarksville High School, Freed-Hardeman University, and the University of Memphis.

As a young insurance agent, Keith played an instrumental role in forming today's Bartlett Chamber of Commerce and also developing its industrial park.

Now, prior to his government service, Keith traveled to Japan to help recruit brother industries to invest in Bartlett as the anchor tenant of that park.

Keith decided to further give to his community when he joined local government. So, in October of 2017, Keith became an alderman for the city of Bartlett and was elected its mayor in 2002.

There have been so many accomplishments during Keith's tenure as mayor during the past 20 years. Perhaps the most significant is Keith's leadership in creating and establishing the Bartlett City School System.

Now in its ninth year, the school system has further demonstrated that Bartlett is a great place to not only operate a business, but also educate children and raise families. None of it would have happened without Keith McDonald's drive and determination.

I talked with Keith's son, Brooks, about his father's life and career. Brooks told me that at home Keith taught his children about what Keith called the 80/20 rule, and that is that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. It is a lesson that Brooks has never forgotten and that Keith has continuously demonstrated both in his faith and in his community and in his family.

Now, speaking of his family, that is what is most important to Keith. Whether it was leading his son's PTA groups or serving as their Scout leader, Keith has always been that strong and loving father for Brooks and for Ryan.

Without a doubt, the city of Bartlett will certainly miss Keith McDonald's vision and leadership.

To Brooks and Ryan, I know that you are proud of your father's public service. To Keith's wife and his partner, Patty, we thank you for the years that you have given and all that you have given over these last 20 years.

Roberta and I wish Keith and his family the best as his public service concludes over the next few days. To Keith, job well done.

I thank the gentleman for yielding his time and for leading this Special Order hour tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for fitting into the hour and honoring Mayor Keith McDonald. He sounds like a faithful public servant and one I wish I had the pleasure of knowing. We commend him on his long public service, and it is fitting that we do that on the night that we are bidding farewell soon to our friend and colleague, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT, as well.

These are the kind of faithful public servants that the Founding Fathers had in mind, that they would serve selflessly for a long tenure and give themselves to their community.

Madam Speaker, I know the clock has wound up and I am out of time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE MATH WILL ALWAYS WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, forgive me as I get myself somewhat organized as is the chaos when you use lots of boards.

Madam Speaker, we are going to sort of do something in sort of a continuation on a theme.

A couple weeks ago, I was behind the microphones here, and it is something I have done a lot, and I walked through just how much trouble we are in as a society. The debt is coming, and it turns out that debt is not Democrat or Republican, it is demographics; we got old.

But before I start to walk through what I believe is the thought process of the solutions that actually can save us, I am going to ask some favors of anyone who is crazy enough to give us time to watch some of this.

I actually do read the comments when these things are put out on social media. When you look around the room, there is almost no one here, but we are on several hundred televisions right now around the campus. Right now in offices in the buildings there are young people working on policy pa-

pers who have this on their screen. This is part of the way we communicate with each other. There is a purpose.

The second thing I am going to ask, as I start to walk through these ideas, is open your minds. Some of these will offend Republicans. Some are going to offend Democrats. But the math, the math is true. And the family motto: "The math will always win."

There is hope out there, but every single day this place continues to operate like a clown show. And I am sorry, that was very mean to clowns. Being sarcastic and being mean, the scale of what is coming at us and the immorality of not dealing with it terrifies me. So we are going to do a quick recap.

The next 30 years—and these are last year's CBO numbers, this is before inflation has been calculated in—we functionally have, and the newest one was 114, this one is \$116 trillion of borrowed money coming. That is in today's dollars.

So think about that. On this board we are going to borrow \$116 trillion or \$114 trillion. We have about \$1.9 trillion—we are in the positive.

So where is all the borrowing coming from?

Every dime of borrowing over the next 30 years, 75 percent of it is Medicare, 25 is a shortfall in Social Security.

□ 2120

That is immoral. But it is math. We got old. Baby boomers started retiring. It is math.

How many conversations have happened on the floor today saying: Hey, this is going to drive all public policy because it is going to consume every dollar?

This is the reality.

Madam Speaker, we are in the process of adopting a little boy right now. He is 5 months old. He has been with us since his first few days of life. It is a joy. When he turns 25, we have to double—his tax rate will have to have doubled what we all pay, and that is just to maintain the baseline of services.

So if you think about where you are going to be 20 years from now, Madam Speaker, 25 years from now, are you ready to pay double the taxes?

We make businesses actually do disclosures now saying: Well, global warming, environmental change, you should have to disclose that.

Damn it, should those same businesses have to disclose the fact that their tax rates are doubling over the next couple of decades?

It is baked in the cake. It is this math. Unless you have a revolution in two areas: crashing the cost of healthcare and economic growth. And growth is moral. Think about the end of 2017, 2018, and 2019 when the poor got dramatically less poor, the middle class got much more prosperous, and income inequality shrank dramatically. It is moral.

In this place we are going to fight over the stupidest things because it is easy to understand, it is theatrical, and I have \$100-plus trillion of crushing debt coming on top of the \$31 trillion already out there, and that is going to crush all of you.

If you think you are retiring, Madam Speaker, if you think my little boy or my 7-year-old girl, when they hit their peak earning years, are going to live more prosperous than we do, then we need to engage in some sort thought revolution, and that is what I am asking everyone to give me. I am going to do this in a couple of series, so this is going to be over a couple of nights. But I also need you to understand how dangerous it is.

Debt markets are smart. Those debt markets out there where we are having to borrow trillions see Congress is actually starting to take this stuff seriously, we will be benefited by the price of money into the future.

Right now they don't think we are taking it seriously.

Do understand, Madam Speaker, if interest rates on U.S. sovereign debt go up 2 points—my math says about 25 years, this board was actually originally off a print that said 30 years—then every single dime of U.S. tax receipts goes just to cover interest. We need to take a step back and think about that. We are piling on so much debt, and the curve expands. In about a decade, we are running into almost structural \$2-trillion-a-year deficits, and it gets bigger from there.

It is demographics. Almost every dime of that borrowing—75 percent will be Medicare and 25 percent will be Social Security—yet around here we will beat the crap out of each other for even mentioning Social Security and Medicare. But to save it is to actually understand the math.

What would happen if we don't convince debt markets that we are going to take this debt seriously?

The CBO model that was a year ago was, hey, the mean interest rate on U.S. sovereigns is going to be like 1.78. Now it is like 2.8. But if it remained around 4, you do realize, Madam Speaker, in two decades every dime just goes to interest. This is what we are handing to our kids.

So I also need to crush some of the stupidity out there. I accept the political class in our campaigns and those things, there has been a certain lack of truthfulness. Democrats will say: Well, let's tax rich people.

Do you realize, Madam Speaker, if you took every billionaire in America and took every dime they had—every dime, and the price of their yachts didn't crash—if you took every dime, then you could run the government for maybe 7½ months. Now, you would crash us into a massive depression. The scale of this spending and the debt is just ginormous. I love that word.

But also for us on the conservative side, we often have our people who get behind the microphone and say: If we

got rid of foreign aid; get rid of every dime of foreign aid.

Last year I think foreign aid is about \$38 billion. Let's see, last year we were borrowing \$26 billion, \$26,444,000,000 every week. So get rid of every dime of foreign aid, that is what, 10%, 11 days?

What are you going to do with the rest of the year?

Think of that. Every dime of foreign aid, maybe 11, 12 days of borrowing; and remember, our borrowing is going to double functionally over the next 10 years.

We need to tell the truth about the scale. So if I get one more person on my side saying: Well, if we got rid of waste and fraud or foreign aid; or they say: Just tax the rich people more—the math doesn't work. It is great campaign rhetoric and looks good in a brochure.

So you saw in the first chart we have \$114 trillion of borrowing, and that is last year's number before inflation coming.

There are solutions. So let's actually start to be optimistic because there is hope. But we first also have to have that moment of reality. Stop talking about things that are rounding errors. We should still do some of them, like price transparency. Many of us on the Republican side believe very much that you should know what the price of everything in healthcare is.

Great. Let's do it. But the best academic study says: Well, maybe about 1 percent, 0.1 to 0.7 is what the academic studies said if you have price transparency because we have the third-party payer system.

It doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. But don't think it makes that big of a deal in a society while I have healthcare markets around the United States that just had 16 percent inflation. Think of that. The healthcare costs in some of these markets went up 16 percent.

Madam Speaker, if you want to see a lot of detail, go to Brian Riddell's charts, Manhattan Institute. This is one of them. It talks about all the different ideas, both particularly from the right and mostly from left: If we did this sort of tax, then here is how much more tax we get over a decade of GDP.

When you start to add it up, then you start to realize that none of these get you even close. If you double the tax rate, take people and move them from 35 to 50 to 60 to 70 percent tax rate, then you don't get anything. And that is without an attempt to do the economic effects because there is a math reality that those ones in the tax world—I am on the Committee of Ways and Means—and it is for 100-plus years.

When we lower taxes, we basically seem to get about that 18, 19 percent of GDP, the size of the economy, in taxes. When we have raised taxes in the United States, you seem to get about that 18 or 19 percent of GDP in taxes. It is math, and you have got lots of history on this. So when you have raised taxes, we are still getting this size,

much of the economy, but the economy gets smaller. When you have lower taxes, the economy gets bigger, and you get this percentage.

It turns out that right now we are getting almost \$1 trillion more in receipts, revenues, and taxes than we were getting just a couple of years ago. A lot of that is based on the growth that came after tax reform. A lot of it was the amazing amount of government spending here that we had some of that stimulus that we are going to take some taxes in on money we put out; we still have to borrow the money, so we are screwed from that—sorry, an economic term. But the fact of the matter is, a lot of the folks who predicted: Oh, revenues are going to crash. They didn't. Society got much more productive.

Expensing turns out to be most valuable thing in tax reform because it forced us to do investment and growth. At one point we will talk about that.

So let's talk about right now the primary driver of U.S. debt over the next 30 years. Some reality: 5 percent of our brothers and sisters are over 50 percent of all of our healthcare spending. Now, these are our friends, our neighbors, and our family members who have multiple chronic conditions.

The majority of healthcare spending comes through government. The majority of this population is getting their healthcare through government. If this is the primary driver of costs in our society and the primary driver of debt, wouldn't we think about what we can do about that 5 percent of our society that is out there suffering?

It is worth thinking about.

So if I came to you right now, Madam Speaker, and said: Let our ideas we have out there that are doable in divided government that won't scare people too much or won't bring the armies of lobbyists down saying: Oh, we are screwing up their business model, but also have that morality of actually potentially working and doing something good—I am going to start with something really simple and then get more complicated—what would happen, Madam Speaker, if I came to all of us and said: Did you know that it is estimated that 16 percent of all healthcare spending is people just not taking their meds?

So I have hypertension. I take a calcium inhibitor. I don't stroke out, and it is a really, really, cheap, cheap pill. As long as you take it, it is incredibly effective.

Madam Speaker, how many people do you know who take statins for their cholesterol?

There are drug regimens where if you take them and take them according to the prescription, you are healthy, and you are safe. But when you don't, you stroke out, and that costs hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It turns out that is 16 percent of all healthcare spending. You do realize that is over a half a trillion dollars a year in healthcare spending.

So why wouldn't we have a conversation around this place and say: Okay, we all walk around with these little supercomputers in our pocket, we have seen these studies now saying that people not adhering to their pharmaceutical regimen to stay stable is over 16 percent of healthcare spending, why wouldn't you do something silly like a solution?

□ 2130

It turns out that they have pill bottle caps that beep at you if you don't open them in the morning. When you are really busy running around saying, oh, I forgot to take my calcium inhibitor for my hypertension, the thing is beeping at you. The other ones also will beep at your phone.

I know this sounds silly, but could you imagine, instead of 16 percent of healthcare being the cost of people having not maintained theirs, we cut it in half? That is \$250 billion, \$300 billion a year, and it would have been what, a \$0.99 to \$2 pill bottle cap that beeps at you, or the one that dispenses for grandma her mixture of pills that she is having trouble remembering.

We are walking through simple ideas that could pass here. Why wouldn't we have this discussion? There are other derivatives and discussions that make people uncomfortable, like for high-priced medicines. Put them in sterile packaging so if someone passes away, they can go back to the health co-op or whatever is out there and reuse them. There are all sorts of these ideas.

Think about something as simple as this. This is half a trillion dollars a year. For something you need, why wouldn't we invest and say, hey, put the pill bottle cap on that beeps at you if you don't open it in the morning? Is this simple enough conceptually?

There are ideas like this that have massive dollar impacts, and we never even discuss them because they are simple to absorb.

I have been here multiple times and talked about the item you can blow into. In our office, we have nicknamed it the flu kazoo because that was cute, people got it, but it is a breath biopsy.

I showed it, I think, a couple of weeks ago on the floor, that there are all things where you can functionally have a medical lab in your home medicine cabinet.

But here is the disruption. This is what makes so many people angry. If I brought you something right now, for a couple hundred dollars, you could have it in your home medicine cabinet. You could blow into it and instantly tell you if you have the flu, instantly bang off your medical records, instantly order your antiviral, and Lyft or Uber could drop it off at your house in 2 hours. Wouldn't you like that?

For everyone here who talks about accessibility, remember, I just talked about having a little person at home. It is a lot easier to blow into that thing for the breath biopsy and get the prescription delivered than it is to go wait

in an emergency room or try to get that doctor's appointment.

Believe it or not, that technology is illegal. The way our laws are set up right now, that disruptive technology is illegal. It is crazy.

Why wouldn't you allow that algorithm that statistically is more accurate than a human to write a prescription? Would it make your life better?

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Excellent. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is part of what we are talking about: Legalize the technology that will make our lives easier, better, faster, raise accessibility, and, yes, it is going to cause a disruption.

If you are an investor in the urgent care system, you may not like telemedicine. You may not like these things. But how many of us used to go to Blockbuster Video, stand in line, and have the nice person hand us a suggestion on a movie because the one we really wanted wasn't there?

If they had hired enough lobbyists, would this place have slowed down the internet to keep Netflix?

I need you to think this way, and this is what I am asking anyone that is viewing. It is the reality of it, when you looked at that first slide, and we talked about trillions and trillions of that coming from just the shortfall in Medicare.

If this were 20 years ago or 25 years ago, you would have this debate with the left or the right. Well, we are going to do entitlement reform. No, we are not.

Does anyone remember the experience that this body had back in the early 2000s when someone was willing to talk about trying to save Social Security back then, and it became political ads, fundraising?

The math was true, but the politics were great to destroy then George Bush and the people that were willing to tell the truth about the math. This place will pay lip service, but it is not going to happen.

The path I am proposing is embracing what we have gotten really good at in this country. I mean, this is a supercomputer. Think of the power that is in this thing.

Yes, it is an iPhone. It is expensive. But it is—what?—10,000 times more powerful than the old IBM PC I used to have. Take that concept, and what would happen if we would legalize technology to crash the price of healthcare?

What is one of the biggest drivers of healthcare costs in the country? The number one? It is a little uncomfortable to talk about. It is diabetes.

The fact of the matter is 31 percent of all Medicare—Medicare, not Medicaid—Medicare spending is related to diabetes, and 33 percent of all healthcare spending is related to diabetes. It is crazy.

I represent a Tribal community that is actually pretty well off. They are incredibly well-managed, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Tribal community right alongside Scottsdale, and they have gaming, sports, and all sorts of other things.

They are very good at what they do, and they are the second highest per capita population, I think, in the world for diabetes. Their sister Tribe, Gila River, is number one.

Is it moral if I came to you right now and said, there is a path, and yes, it might not ultimately work, but there is a path out there of a stem cell treatment working with CRISPR where they have tagged it so you don't need antirejection drugs?

Yes, it is type 1, but there is a proof of concept that is starting to work where they have actually had a handful of Americans who they have been able to transfer the stem cells, and their islet cells are now producing insulin.

Remember, I just told you 33 percent of all healthcare spending is 31 percent of all Medicare. It would be the single biggest thing you could do for debt. It would also be one of the most moral things you could do for our brothers and sisters who are out there suffering, who are going blind and losing parts of their feet.

There is math out there that health may be one of the primary drivers of income inequality in society. You can't work if you have a family member who you are having to take care of because disease is ravaging them.

This is forcing the body to think differently, that if a cure is moral, but it is also really good economics and would help us take on the primary driver of our future debt with healthcare, why wouldn't you fixate on that 5 percent of our brothers and sisters that have chronic conditions that are over 50 percent of all healthcare spending?

The 31 percent that is actually Medicare, that is just diabetes. How about a Moonshot? If I came to you right now and said they are having some success, why can't we bring these?

I have been trying now, under Democrat control for a couple of years, and look. Being in the minority, we basically get told to go to hell. I will talk to my brothers and sisters on the Democrat side, and they say that is amazing but don't believe it.

Shouldn't we go out and build a bunch more diabetes centers? Great. You are going to help people manage their misery. How about curing it? Isn't this the moral thing to do?

By the way, it would be the single most powerful thing you could do for U.S. sovereign debt and my 5-month-old's economic future and your retirement.

This is just a taste of the disruptive ideas we are going to try to bring here over the next handful of times I get in front of the floor.

There is hope, but this body needs to start thinking that we care. This body

needs to start acting like we give a damn. Instead, we spend so much time doing theater.

Look, I care a lot about what is on Hunter Biden's laptop. Well, not really. I do care about the media hiding it and screwing with our elections. That is important.

□ 2140

They mentioned at the end of the decade or so we are going to have \$2 million a year deficit and it goes up from there.

You have got to decide: Are you going to save the Republic?

Are you going to embrace the morality of the prosperity?

Start understanding the science, the synthetic biology, the opportunities around us where we can cure people. Because I am going to argue that finding a path, whether it be the single shot cure that is now available for hemophilia, which is really expensive, but it cures hemophilia.

Now, we should probably come together as a body and say, hey, why don't we work out a financing mechanism so we can use the future savings to pay for the purchase of the drug today? Because wouldn't that be the moral thing to do. And, oh, by the way, it gets rid of that chronic condition.

Sickle cell anemia, we are so close. There are so many things out there where—we talk about the lack of productivity in society.

What would happen if we cured so many of our brothers and sisters so that they are able to participate in the economics?

Part of this closing here—we are going to talk about sort of the unified theory to save the country. Part of that unified theory—this is the economics—is embracing the technology. And yes, disruption is scary and it may mess up your business model, but it is moral.

Talking about immigration—really hard—but the fact of the matter is, importing poverty by open borders crushes the working poor because now that is who they are competing with. We need talent.

With the fertility rates all across the western world, in the next couple decades there is going to be a fight for smart people.

Over here is a tax code that fixates on growth. Maybe it is time to stop subsidizing, importing stuff from other countries, and functionally taxing ourselves to send things out of the country.

You realize, we functionally crush ourselves in the way we design our tax code today? Why wouldn't you flip that, so you incentivize? Make it here.

The other thing is regulatory. If I came to you tomorrow and said you could crowdsource air quality, you don't need buildings full of paperwork shoved in file cabinets. You could make the air cleaner, better, faster.

Things like what happened to the water in Detroit or other places—actually it wasn't Detroit. Sorry, I am from

out West—but the little thing that you are able to sample your water or the thing you can put on your lapel.

Madam Speaker, I am going to beg of us, and I am going to bring boards talking about there is technology around us where we can crush the size of the bureaucracy to get cleaner, better, faster, healthier, and grow. And the growth is moral and the growth gives us a path to not be crushed by the debt that is coming with that.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) until 10 p.m.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, it is always difficult to follow the always interesting Congressman SCHWEIKERT.

There are a variety of issues that we haven't addressed for a while but that are in the news and demand some attention.

First of all, I noticed our President Biden was down near the Mexican border and was quoted as saying, when he was asked whether he would go a few more miles to the border, he said there are more important things to do. One of the more shocking statements in an administration of shocking statements.

It has come out recently that in November we had 73,000 got-aways at the southern border. Now, I would like to point out, there are two groups of people who are coming here who shouldn't be here. One group insists they are asking for asylum, and they turn themselves in to the Border Patrol, they get an interview, they are registered to come in here and are given a date to appear before some tribunal.

The other group—the more dangerous of the two, I think—are those people who don't want to be seen by the Border Patrol. They want to sneak across the border and are what the Border Patrol refers to as got-aways.

In November, the highest number that I can remember, the Border Patrol estimates there were 73,000 got-aways. They are more dangerous because, for example, if you are sneaking drugs across the border, you don't want to turn yourself into the Border Patrol, you want to sneak across somehow.

That 73,000 was a 23 percent increase in the estimate compared to the prior month. A huge increase. Like I said, for people who have a criminal background—because our Border Patrol is able to check as to whether you have a prior criminal background in the United States or a prior criminal background in Canada. But again, if you molested somebody or committed harm, you would try to sneak across the border.

Why are more people sneaking across the border?

I assume it is because it is getting easier and easier. We have a shortage

of members of the Border Patrol there. They are busy doing the administrative work. Because they are doing more administrative work, they don't have time to guard the border, and as a result, we have an all-time high.

Not only more people probably who are the type of people who would commit crimes, we have more of the type of people who bring drugs across the border. If we do have anybody from foreign countries who wanted to cause harm to the United States, they would be got-aways. That is the way to come here.

I think it is entirely scandalous that President Biden would be so breezy as to say: I have more important things to do than see what is going on at the border. It was very disappointing.

I could argue maybe some poorly run campaigns, that President Biden was only mildly struck down by the results on November 8.

I hope the American public wakes up—I don't think they were educated on these numbers enough—wakes up to the huge number of people coming across our border.

I also hope the American public remembers that the 188,000 people who die every year of illegal drug overdoses in this country it doesn't just happen; it happens because we are neglecting the border where so much of the fentanyl comes across.

I would also like to point out that America is not anti-immigrant. I think it is so slanderous when he says that.

Last month, I attended a ceremony in West Allis, Wisconsin, where they swore in, they estimated, over 100 people to be new American citizens. We were told by the representative there that last year was the first year, in her memory, in which we swore in 1 million new, all-legal citizens.

So don't let anyone tell you that America is not being kind to people from other countries who want to come here. Last year, 1 million people managed to legally be sworn in as citizens. That is quite enough.

I don't think we are being at all nice, we are being cruel to our own country to allow so many other people to come across here—73,000 got-aways, and approximately 100,000 other people, I believe, when the figures are released, coming across in October.

The next issue to talk about that has been in the news is in my home city of Milwaukee, or the city of my birth: there were 211 murders that took place. Milwaukee, when I was growing up, depending on the year, was either the safest or second safest city next to San Diego, among the 25 biggest cities in the country.

We now have—and the population has fallen since that time—we have now hit today 211 murders, which is an all-time record for Milwaukee; they never before even hit 200, now we just blew by that number. Probably by the time we are done we will be up around 220. There is going to be all sorts of analyses as to what causes it.

Some people are going to say it is caused by lack of good schools, but I want to point out that in the future when we analyze this number—and there should be an analysis done on the number—we should look a little bit at the family situation of the murderers, insofar as what type of family were they brought up in and what type of family do they live in now.

□ 2150

I do believe there has been significant breakdown of the traditional family in this country over the last 50 years, and I personally think that is the primary reason why we are blowing by the 200 figure in Milwaukee right now.

In any event, as this horrific year in Milwaukee is analyzed, I hope, given all the money we spend on studies, that some work is done studying the people who are caught for these murders, the background they have, and they realize that, in the future, as we try to avoid more murders in Milwaukee, we don't do silly things like look at the guns; we look at the background of these people; look at the war on the family that has been going on in this country for over 50 years and try to work our way back to where we were in the 1970s and the 1960s and, even more, the 1950s, when the murder rate in this country was a fraction of what it is today.

I will point out, even when you look at the 211 murders, we have top-of-the-line medical care now. The number of murders has skyrocketed over what it was, say, 40 years ago or 50 years, skyrocketed over what it was 55, 60 years ago, despite the fact that medical care was nowhere near as great at that time.

So I hope people look at the family and analyzing what we can do to get that murder rate back down a little bit toward where it should be.

The next issue I want to address today concerns the efforts being made, which I believe will be successful, to remove the vaccine mandate for our brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women who operate in our Armed Forces.

Earlier today, I talked to Lieutenant Colonel Theresa Long, who is from Fort Rucker, Alabama, and is a whistleblower, as to what is going on with the vaccines for our servicemembers today. I would hope that all members of the press would be crowding on a chance to talk to her on her observations at Fort Rucker and throughout reports made to the military on what is happening after our soldiers get vaccines.

Right now, a lot of the focus, understandably, is on the fact that the effort to require vaccines is reducing the number of recruits. It is causing people to leave the military at a time when we need more people in the military, and that is a big problem.

But I think we haven't spent enough time looking on the fact that the military members who do not want to get these vaccines may very well be right.

If you look at the number of soldiers and sailors aged 19 to 40 who are getting cancer, who are getting pulmonary embolisms, who are getting heart problems, myocardial heart problems, are all increasing significantly over what it was 3 years ago.

Indeed, she has seen things at Fort Rucker she has never seen before. And one has to wonder whether it is the huge number of military members who are getting these vaccines. She feels that this has been really a fraud on our servicemembers telling them that these vaccines are all safe, when we have the most in-shape group of people in this country, people in the military, aged 19 to 39 and, despite being in such good shape, particularly males 19 to 39, we see a significant increase in deaths from sudden cardiac arrest.

We see, among the women, an increase in miscarriages, perhaps an increase in infertility.

We have big problems here. I think before we advise these healthy people in their 20s and 30s to get the vaccine, they ought to sit down with Lieutenant Colonel Long and look at the figures which she has been talking about, a whistleblower trying to save the troops under her from getting any more life-threatening events.

So I hope that Congress weighs in here. I hope the Biden administration shows a little bit of sympathy with the soldiers and removes even the request that people under 40 get the vaccine. I hope that Congress weighs in in that regard, requiring that the medical personnel in the military be a little bit more forthcoming on the results that they see, the health problems that have become apparent in our troops today, compared to 2 years ago, and compared to 4 years ago.

You are going to find more bad things going on, and it seems to me common sense that, given the great increase in vaccines on these young people, you have to kind of assume that the vaccines are causing these additional problems.

So I hope that Congress wakes up. I hope even more that our slumbering media wakes up, who should be looking out for the poor and defenseless—I don't like to call our military poor and defenseless, but when they try to kick them out of the military, they kind of are—and see whether the government is, in their policies here, are they looking out for the good of the pharmaceutical industry or are they looking out for the good of our troops?

In any event, there are three issues that we deal with tonight: The bad outcomes of the vaccines on our troops; the new, all-time high in murders in the city of Milwaukee; and the record-high number of people, number of got-aways crossing the border that apparently President Biden does not think is a serious problem.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6097. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Plan Submittals for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2016-0168; FRL-10414-02-R1] received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6098. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — N,N-Dimethylnonanamide; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0191; FRL-10423-01-OCSP] received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6099. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Canola Oil Pathways to Renewable Diesel, Jet Fuel, Naphtha, Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Heating Oil [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0845; FRL-9075-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV55) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6100. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Addition of Certain Chemicals; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting [EPA-HQ-TRI-2017-0434; FRL-5927-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AK26) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6101. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6102. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6103. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6104. A letter from the Chair, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2022

through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6105. A letter from the Acting Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6106. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6107. A letter from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Updating Entries for Two Species on and Removing Johnson's Seagrass From the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants Wildlife and Plants [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2022-0111; FF09E22000 FXES11130900000 201] (RIN: 1018-BG87) received November 30, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6108. A letter from the Governor of Puerto Rico, transmitting the Eighth Congressional Status Report on the Economic and Disaster Recovery Plan of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6109. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — NPDES Small MS4 Urbanized Area Clarification [EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0834; FRL-10123-02-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG27) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6110. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Origin for Goods Imported Into the United States [CBP Dec.: 22-25] (RIN: 1515-AE77) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-6111. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure: Special Procedures for Certain Eligible Taxpayers to File a Qualified Amended Return After the Opening of an Audit (Rev. Proc. 2022-39) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-6112. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States Annual Report for Calendar Year 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 4107; July 3, 1948, ch. 826, Sec. 9 (as amended by Public Law 89-348, Sec. 2(6)); (79 Stat. 1312) and 22 U.S.C. 1622(c); Mar. 10, 1950, ch. 54, Sec. 3(c) (as amended by Aug. 9, 1955, ch. 645, Sec. 1); (69 Stat. 562); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1884. A bill to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes: (Rept. 117-592). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3600. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-593). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4648. A bill: to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-594). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5444. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-595, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5715. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-596, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6063. A bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-597). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6181. A bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 117-598). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6707. A bill to amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to advance equality for Wabanaki nations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-599). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6438. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as "Dearfield" in the State of Colorado (Rept. 117-600). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6442. A bill to amend section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, to include Tribal Governments and quasi-governmental entities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-601). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6654. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-602). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6799. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P.

Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System (Rept. 117-603). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7075. A bill to designate Ukrainian Independence Park in Washington, District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 117-604). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7496. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733 (Rept. 117-605). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 789. An act to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians (Rept. 117-606). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 604. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-607 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1510. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-608). Referred to the House Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 604. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 15, 2022.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 9448. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from taking certain action relating to social media companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 9449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 9450. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to develop and disseminate resources on Regulation CF and Rule 504 of Regulation D, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9451. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9452. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 9453. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or the development of adaptation or management options relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BOWMAN):

H.R. 9454. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare children and youth for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MANN, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. ESTES, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 9455. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9456. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to exclude certain populations of the lesser prairie chicken from the authority of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 9457. A bill to require an interagency study on the environmental and energy impacts of crypto-asset mining, to assess crypto-asset mining compliance with the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 9458. A bill to provide temporary authority to the Secretary of Defense to appoint retired members of the Armed Forces to military health system positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9459. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exclude qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors when calculating holders of a

security for purposes of the mandatory registration threshold under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 9460. A bill to criminalize transnational repression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 9461. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. BASS):

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution recognizing international days of peace, coexistence, and cooperation; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H. Res. 1511. A resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2022; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.R. 9448.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, Cl. 18 of the U.S. Constitution states the Congress shall have the power "to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department of officer thereof."

Additionally, §1 of the XIV Amendment states, "... nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, of property, without due process of law . . ." and under §5 of the XIV Amendment, "The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 9449.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 9450.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 9453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 9454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 9455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

Provides Congress with the power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 9457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 9458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 9460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 9461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 384: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 829: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 1284: Mr. ESTES, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 1401: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 1735: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1829: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1946: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2021: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 2252: Mr. STANTON, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HIMES, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2553: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2800: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 4137: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4268: Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 4603: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 6008: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6394: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 6421: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 6633: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
H.R. 6641: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 6934: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 7079: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 7477: Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7570: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 7610: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 7615: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 7644: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 7647: Ms. BUSH and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 7706: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 7987: Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CASE, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 8613: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 8616: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 8654: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 8685: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 8770: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 8774: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8849: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 8906: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 9374: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 9402: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 9441: Ms. MENG.
H. Res. 1205: Mr. MFUME.
H. Res. 1435: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 1497: Mrs. McBATH.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-156. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Town of Bartelme Electors, Bartelme, Wisconsin, relative to a resolution seeking to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood and the corrupting influence of unlimited political contributions and spending; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.